

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 /076 W

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R 280730Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8999

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, JA

SUBJECT: MOSHE DAYAN IN TOKYO

SUMMARY: DURING LARGELY INCOGNITO VISIT TO JAPAN, ISRAEL'S MOSHE DAYAN, ADDRESSING TOKYO 'S FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB, EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT CHANCES OF ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS COMING TO TERMS. NEGOTIATIONS, WHETHER AT GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE, WOULD BE TOUGH, BUT SO LONG AS POLITICAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS CONTINUE WAR SEEMS UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TALK AT FOREIGN PRESS CLUB TOKYO (ATTENDED BY EMBOFF) ISRAEL'S MOSHE DAYAN EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM OVER CHANCES FOR PEACE IN ME. SAYING ISRAEL COULD COME TO TERMS WITH THE ARABS, HE BASED OPTIMISM ON SUPERPOWER PRESSURES AND MORE MODERATE LEADERSHIP IN EGYPT. WHILE PRAISING SECY KISSINGER'S ABILITIES AS A MEDIATOR ("THE BEST WE'VE HAD"), DAYAN SAID THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO ACHIEVING PEACE IN ME FAILED BECAUSE IT ALLOWED TOO LITTLE TIME FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTIES TO GET TOGETHER AND RESOLVE EXTRAORDINARILY COMPLEX

PROBLEMS. PARTIES MUST SLOWLY DEVISE SOLUTION AND MOVE FIRST TOWARD AN INTERIM AGREEMENT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE. AFTERWARD, SAME PROCESS COULD SLOWLY PRODUCE A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT, EMBRACING ISRAEL AND ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. GEVEVA WAS AS ACCEPTABLE AS ANY OTHER VENUE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT.

2. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE CRITICISM OF GOI INSISTENCE ON A PUBLIC NON-BELLIGENCY COMMITMENT BY EGYPT, DAYAN NOTED THAT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH KING HUSSEIN WHICH IN EFFECT OPENED THE JORDAN-ISRAEL BORDER. HUSSEIN, DAYAN SAID, COULD NEVER HAVE COMMITTED HIMSELF TO SUCH IN PUBLIC AGREEMENT. SIMILARLY, SUEZ TOWNS ARE REVIVING AND THE CANAL WILL OPEN, BOTH OF WHICH ARE STEPS THE PRACTICAL MEANING OF WHICH, BY IMPLICATION, IS COMMITMENT TO PEACE.

3. DAYAN DISPUTED DEAD KING KAISAL'S REPUTATION AS A GREAT LEADER, BUT SPOKE FAVORABLY OF HUSSEIN AND SADAT. HE WAS CRITICAL OF SYRIA, ASSAD, IRAQ AND , TO A LESSER EXTENT, NASSER. ASKED ABOUT ASSAD'S STATEMENT THAT THE US WOULD ABANDON ISRAEL AS SHE HAS INDOCHINA, DAYAN PRASISED AMERICA AS A RELIABLE FRIEND WHO WOULD CONTINUE TO SELL ISRAEL WEAPONS AND SUPPORT ISRAEL POLITICALLY. ISRAEL SOUGHT NO AMERICAN TROOPS TO FIGHT ITS BATTLES, UNLESS THE SOVIET UNION WERE INVOLVED. ASKED TO ASSESS A PURPORTED CHINESE THEORY THAT BOTH SUPERPOWERS WANTED CONFLICT IN THE ME, DAYAN STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE US ABSOLUTELY WANTED PEACE AND DESPITE RECENT SET-BACKS, HE WAS COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE US AND SECY KISSINGER WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK DILIGENTLY FOR PEACE. AS FOR THE SOVIET UNION, HE SAID HE THOUGHT MOSCOW DID NOT WANT WAR AND COULD MAINTAIN ITS INTERESTS IN THE ME WITH PEACE, BUT SO LONG AS THERE WAS NEITHER PEACE NOR WAR MOSCOW WOULD USE THE CONFLICT TO EXTEND SOVIET INFLUENCE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT A REPORTED RIFT WITH PRES FORD AND SECY KISSINGER OVER ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE, DAYAN TURNED THE QUESTION ASIDE BY EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

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4. DAYAN DESCRIBED ISRAEL-JAPAN RELATIONS AS QUITE CORDIAL. HE SAID JAPAN VERY MUCH NEEDED OIL AND WOULD DO ITS BEST TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES. BUT, HE SAID, "JAPAN IS NOW ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHICH IS STRONG ENOUGH, INDEPENDENT ENOUGH, AND DEMOCRATIC ENOUGH TO HAVE ITS OWN WAY". WITH SOME SCORN SHOWING THROUGH, DAYAN CONTINUED, "JAPAN IS NOT EXACTLY A TINY COUNTRY TO BECOME SUBJECT TO BLACKMAIL AND TO HAVE ITS

POLICIES DICTATED BY SOMEBODY ELSE".

5. COMMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF NEGATIVE COMMENT ON KING FAISAL AND THE BARB TOWARD JAPAN, DAYAN WAS DEFT AND CHARMING. NO ARABS OR AFRICANS ATTENDED, AS BEST WE COULD TELL, BUT OPEC MEMBER VENEZUELA'S CHARGE PALACIOS SAT WITH STUDIED GLUMNESS THROUGH DAYAN'S WIT, DID NOT APPLAUD, AND LEFT EARLY. SPEECH AND REMARKS CONTAINED ONLY PRAISE FOR US, AND WERE NOTABLE FOR THEIR PEACEFUL, NON-HAWK-LIKE TONE.
SHOESMITH

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